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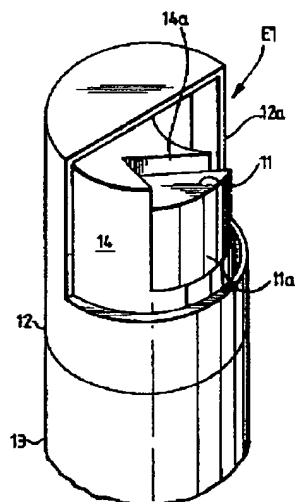
(54) **ELECTRIC SURGICAL INSTRUMENT**

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(57) Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To establish accurate contact of the electrode of an electric surgical instrument with a treated tissue.

SOLUTION: An electric surgical instrument comprises an instrument shaft, and an electrode assembly disposed at the end of the shaft. The electrode assembly has an active electrode 11 having a tissue treating part, a return electrode 12, and an insulating means 14 for electrically insulating the active electrode 11 from the return electrode 12. The active electrode 11 is moved periodically in relation to the return electrode 12 or moved periodically into or out of the position where it works with the return electrode 12 to form arc discharge therebetween. The active electrode 11 is made to revolve or reciprocate with respect to the return electrode 12.



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